

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 and 18-30 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the restriction requirement. Claims 8-17 are indicated as being rejected in the Official Action.

Claims 8, 12 and 15 are currently amended. Claim 8 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 14 therein (excepting polymerizable derivatives of pyridine). Claim 12 is amended to clarify positioning of a spacer group within the polymer or copolymer (see, e.g., example II-29). Claim 15 is amended to exclude vinyl derivatives of pyridine. Claims 9 and 14 are cancelled following the aforementioned amendment of claim 8. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Action indicates that the restriction requirement as it relates to the election of monomer species in claims 14 and 15 has been withdrawn. Applicants thank the examiner for removal of this restriction.

Claims 8-10, 12-17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 97/49387. WO '387 is cited as teaching poly(4-vinylpyridine). Any basis for this rejection is overcome following the amendments to claims 8 and 15 presented hereinabove. Moreover, this reference, either alone or in


combination, does not teach or suggest the presently claimed subject matter.

Claims 8-17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Login et al. Login et al. is cited as teaching polymers of 5-oxo-pyrrolidine with linker X. Any basis for this rejection is overcome following the amendments to claims 8 and 15 presented hereinabove. Moreover, this reference, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest the presently claimed subject matter. Additionally, as discussed at page 8 of the specification, polymers of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) are not believed to be particularly water soluble and, therefore, are not expected to display pronounced hydrotropic properties.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove, Applicants believe that any grounds for rejection of the application have been removed or overcome. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conversation could expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, James H. Meadows, hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date August 13, 2004

Signature: _____

J H Meadows